

REPORT TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION



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break is over and we are moving heading toward a wonderful spring..

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Jack Foster, Superintendent



GREAT TEAMWORK!

At this time all of the contracts are back and we are in the process of hiring seventeen new teachers. All of the principals have signed their contracts and plan to return next year. We are in the process of hiring for the openings. Job fairs are a major part of recruitment for educators in Alaska. Alaska Teacher Placement (ATP) hosts several job fairs annually, one in Anchorage, one in Minneapolis, one in Seattle, and one in Michigan. It also rents booths at several more throughout the U.S. The majority of educator job fairs nation-wide are held in March and April, at the height of the recruitment season. Job fairs we are planning to attend are:

- Anchorage Job Fair: April 16th and 17th
- Seattle Job Fair: April 18th
- Minneapolis State Job Fair: April 19th
- Minneapolis – Alaska Teacher Placement: April 23rd & 24th

You learn at your best when you have something you are about and can get pleasure in being engaged in.

--Howard Gardner



At left, Southwest Region School District Superintendent Jack Foster, with Melissa Hill, of UAF, and Jack Walsh, Superintendent of the Bristol Bay School District. During our meeting on Monday we discussed their views on legislation that has recently been the focus of the House Education Committee.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

There is an "Education Legislation Review" in your packet. Right now all bills are going through a process.

The Governor's Spending Plan:

On December 14, 2009 governor Parnell announced his FY11 spending plan. The fall revenue forecast estimated \$76.35 per barrel of oil for FY11. Unrestricted revenue is expected to be \$5.24 billion. Based on the revenue forecast, there will be a surplus of about \$500 million, even after paying back the Constitutional Budget Reserve, depositing money in the Public Education Fund, and setting aside \$400 million for the Governor's Performance Scholarship Program.

The governor said his priorities are education, public safety, transportation, and resource development.

Governor Parnell's budget proposal totals \$10.5 billion, with \$4.7 billion coming from the general fund. The operating budget forward funds K-12 education for FY12 with \$1,130,982,400. Also included is \$24,770,651 for the top eight projects on the system unfunded liability list, \$60 million for revenue sharing, and \$106 million for school bond debt reimbursement.

On February 17, Governor Parnell released his budget amendments. Medicaid formula program increases are the largest component in the budget amendments.

That increases alone totals \$41 million. The non-formula operating budget amendment request is \$14.9 million in general funds and \$20 million in other funds, for a total of \$34.9 million. Education-related amendments are \$70,000 for the Alaska State council on the Arts office space lease, and technical adjustment for Mt. Edgecumbe receipt authority.

Governor Parnell's budget:

- Fully fund the K-12 education funding formula - \$56 million increase.
- Deposit \$400 million into savings to fund the Governor's Performance Scholarship
- Fund K-12 education for FY11 (through the supplemental budget) and forward fund FY 12 (through the operating budget) at about \$1.1 billion in each fiscal year
- \$75 million for a statewide crime lab
- \$7 million for a domestic violence/sexual assault plan, including 15 new VPSO's
- \$177 million for natural gas development
- \$100 million for the first installment of a five-year deferred maintenance plan
- \$109.5 million for a University of Alaska Life science building
- \$25 million for the Renewable Energy Fund
- \$53 million for energy assistance (PCE, LI-HEAP)
- Include funding for transportation infrastructure, AEA energy and power projects, and energy conservation efforts



CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION

David Piazza, Director of Instructional Programs

eRate

No news is usually good news. The District is now in the waiting period for the Universal Service Administration Company (USAC) to review the E-Rate application for next year. During this time, the District

is often requested to respond to Program Integrity Assurance (PIA) review questions as they determine if the application meets program guidelines. Our applications are typically approved well into the following school year, although we continue to receive

Internet, Distance Learning, and telephone services beginning on July 1st of each school year and fully anticipate the 90% subsidy level for those charges.

Recruiting

During the Spring, the District Office spends a considerable amount of time focusing on future school years. We have improved our communication and outreach efforts for new teachers. Within minutes of receiving a signed contract from the newly hired teacher, we are able to create their district e-mail account and notify the state to add the individual to the state mandated training website access pool. A detailed welcome message is sent to the teacher that provides their login information and directions for using the District e-mail system. Additional links are provided to assist the teacher in learning about the district, region, and state. These links include information on the District's web site specifically written for "New Staff" and their relocation efforts, as well as, access to the Negotiated Agreements, Photo Gallery, Alaska Teacher Certification and the state's eLearning site.

We post photos from the new staff member on the District's photo gallery, as well as, on the bulletin board at the district office. We begin to correspond and answer any additional questions that the teachers have well before they arrive on site. This helps us to begin to get acquainted with the new hire and makes their relocation efforts easier.

H1N1 Update

According to the Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation based on information from National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases, CDC, the recommendation is to continue to offer H1N1 and Seasonal Flu vaccines, especially to at risk populations. Vaccine clinics continue to be held in the Dillingham area. Elders from all over Bristol Bay who have not received the Seasonal Flu vaccine have been sent a letter to encourage receiving their seasonal flu shot. Health aides will be providing this in the villages. Parents are encouraged to ensure that children younger than 10 years old get both doses of 2009 H1N1 vaccine. The recommended interval between the first and second dose is 28 days.

Curriculum (Deb Endicott)



MCC Math

We had 17 individuals attended the Saturday workshops and earned added contract duties compensation. They were 1 Administrator, 3 Para Professionals and 13 Teachers.

Throughout this semester three teachers and one paraprofessional are taking the e-live course for undergraduate college credit.

One teacher has completed two modules by performing the pre and post-test, teaching all the lessons, submitting a teacher log and participating in e-live course with the university. Once a teacher completes these requirements, they are rewarded with a stipend paid by the UAF Grant.

Two teachers attended the Anchorage meeting to learn about a new module. One of those teachers is no longer with this district, but the other teacher will help pilot the program by being a member of the control group for the university as it continues to develop this module. The goal of the pilot is to be adding it to the collection.

We now have supplies for each module for all 8 sites at the district office. Tubs will become available for teachers to check out from the Media Center to support teaching their module.

Resource Inventory

We are in the final stages of collecting textbook inventory from each teacher. With this data, we can be more effective in moving textbooks from site to site as needed. Plus it will allow us to pre-plan purchasing teacher and student components to the programs.

Curriculum Alignment Institute

The sessions included: how formative assessment strategies can be embedded into classroom practice to inform instruction and move student learning forward; tools and strategies for recognizing and supporting formative assessment and curriculum alignment; strategies to develop leadership capacity to

have conversations with colleagues about improving student achievement through aligned curriculum, instruction and assessment; and how formative assessment connects with other school improvement initiatives.

District Wide Inservice Planning

The district is beginning to organize the August 2010 In-service agenda and professional development opportunities. Logistics including housing and meal planning has already started as well. We hope to order bulk items on the barge to reduce some of the costs this year.

Professional Development

We have been planning how to meet the professional training needs for new people coming into the district. This may include attending workshops, on-line courses, DVDs or various webinars to learn about the curriculum they will be using in their new position.

Counseling/State-wide Assessments (Steve Ito)



Terra Nova

The Terra Nova Normative Reference tests for grades 5 and 7 were administered district wide during the EED assessment window of February 1st to the 19th. Completed answer

documents were compiled and delivered for scoring. Terra Nova testing satisfies a federal mandate requiring the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development to administer a national normative referenced assessment in two grade levels in conjunction to our state Standards Based Assessment (SBA).

IPT

Idea Proficiency Testing concludes March 31st. All sited administered tests to identified LEP students district wide. Completed answer sheets will be delivered for scoring. The Idea Proficiency Test is an as-

essment of English language acquisition required by EED for identified Limited English Proficient students that focuses on listening, speaking, reading and writing.

Alternate Assessment

Alternate Assessment testing is currently underway for students with significant cognitive disabilities. The Alternate Assessment satisfies the requirement for all students in grades 3-10 to participate in statewide assessments. The Alternate Assessment is a non diploma track test, based on Alaska standards but measured against alternate achievement goals.

SBA's

Standards Based Assessments (SBA) and High School Graduating Qualifying Exams (HSGQE) were received and are currently being shipped to sites. The grade 3-9 SBA and grade 10 SBA/HSGQE are proficiency-based, criterion-referenced tests developed specifically for Alaska. The purpose of the assessments is to provide information about what students know and are able to do in reading, writing, math, and science (science for grades 4,8, & 10). The tests include multiple-choice and constructed-response items. Testing will take place April 6,7th and 8th. Science testing will take place on April 13th.

The Grade 10 SBA-HSGQE and the HSGQE Re-test are proficiency-based, criterion-referenced tests developed specifically for Alaska. Test administration will occur April 6 through April 8, 2010. Schools administer the reading test on April 6, the writing test on April 7, and the mathematics test on April 8, 2010. Regulation does not permit variations on this schedule. There is no Science test for HSGQE Re-test individuals.

SBA scores are used to determine Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) based on participation and performance for schools and school districts statewide each year.



FEDERAL & STATE PROGRAMS

Jon Clouse, Federal/State Programs Director

American Reinvestment & Recovery Act (ARRA) No Child Left Behind (NCLB)

The curriculum audit process in the areas of language arts and math continue to progress. The curriculum camp that may be occurring in May is beginning to take shape as a five to six day intensive time to review, update, and align the curriculum based on meetings that have occurred throughout the year. Supplemental education services, professional development, and additional aide hours have been implemented using State Fiscal and Stabilization Funds Aleknagik, Ekwok, Manokotak, and Clarks Point.

Highly Qualified Plan for Title I Paraprofessionals

No Child Left Behind (NCLB)

The district has secured an additional testing date for the ParaPro Assessment to occur on April 24th at the Bristol Bay Campus in Dillingham. This is a special test date that the testing company has made available only for the state of Alaska. Southwest Region School District intends to take full advantage of this test date and currently have received 17 (out of 22) registration forms from paraprofessionals that need to take the ParaPro Assessment to become highly qualified according to NCLB law.

It has been about six weeks since the implementation of the ParaPro Prep Program at each of our schools. The ParaPro Prep Program provides four hours of tutoring/instruction time each week in order to better prepare non-highly qualified instructional paraprofessionals to take the ParaPro Assessment. Individual weekly plans of service as well as a comprehensive needs assessment are completed to target the areas of need of each paraprofessional.

The attendance rate of the paraprofessionals in the ParaPro Prep Program is 81% with two paraprofessionals opting out of participating in the program. The average scale score on the practice exam was 463 (459 is the passing score for Alaska).

Title IA Report: No Child Left Behind (NCLB)

The Title I-A Report of Comparability has been completed and submitted to the state. This report is designed to meet Title I-A assurances and is a compliance measure for particular school districts serving schools with Title I-A funds. There are a number of options to choose when reporting comparability. The report shows that there is a comparable distribution of state/local funds. Southwest Region School District is in compliance (see report).

Each of our schools and communities are working on revising the Title I Schoolwide Plan that is required of each school served with Title I funds. The Title I schoolwide plan is designed to review the practices of the school and community regarding instruction and instructional support to students. The schoolwide plan being revised will be implemented next school year.

Boarding Home Program: State of Alaska

Currently, there are four boarding home students in the district, down three students from last month. Boarding home letters have been sent to parents of students that might qualify for the state sponsored boarding home program (see example letter). In addition, principals at the K-8 schools will have a packet of information available at a CSC meeting this spring. Information and an electronic application have been available on the district's website since November of 2009.



Business Office

Lee Ann Andrew, Director of Administrative Services

Had a very successful negotiations with the Southwest Region Education Association. Both sides gave an took and the result was an agreement that the district can afford and the teachers can be happy about.

We will be getting our agreement with BBNA for JOM funding for Clark's Point, Ekwok, Koliganek and New Stuyahok. They should be able to start utilizing the funds around the end of March.

Spring order requests went out to the site on March 2nd with a request to be turned in by March 22. Last year orders trickled in from the vendors over a period of time. This year we are going to request no backorders and no split shipments. This may require us to cancel some purchase orders and reorder in the fall. This year we rolled some purchase orders forward which increased some budgets with their encumbered FY08 dollars. We may have to do that again for FY11. How this gets approved may need to be discussed.

We had some very successful training for our software program during March and will have one follow up session after our March payroll. It is very refresh-

ing to learn how the program works from someone who knows the program.

Due to a finding in our audit, we were required to report to the state our year end policy and procedure. We have received a letter stating that our action is sufficient and requires no further action. The correspondence is in the board packet.

We received the final notice from the state closing the Togiak School Replacement grant along with the Quit Claim deed for the district to take ownership. Years ago this district elected to own our schools, which includes new construction.

We applied for two more gaming permits. Each permit has to have it's own checking account and be reported separately. Each permit has a limit of 14 bingo sessions in a month. These two extra permits allow the sites to have more bingo sessions. Ekwok and New Stuyahok will be receiving their own permit number soon. All other sites will share the current permit until there is a need for a fourth permit. The state gaming regulations are strict and with each permit there has to be someone who takes the test and knows the regulations.



SPECIAL EDUCATION

Lee Webster, Director of Special Education

This past month has seen a lot of planning activities with other organizations to bring needed training and services to the wider SWR area.

We are preparing a Special Education staff training on the day of the board meeting because of the availability of Onna Johnson, former monitor for the Special Education Office at the state department.

She will be talking to the returning staff about regulatory procedures, such as timelines for placement and testing. She will also be explaining the state monitoring procedures. This early training will allow the staff to make any needed changes to their paperwork before they leave for the summer break and not be concerned about getting ready for next year's scrutiny of the special education programs.

The Special Education staff is collaborating with the BBNA Head Start program to conduct Child Find activities and screenings in April. This will allow the schools and Head Start to identify children between the ages of 3 and 5 who may have delays in their development that might be reversed with simple interventions. We have had great luck doing just this in the last couple of years. Students who were iden-

tified as 3 years old are now functioning at their age level and should be ready to start Kindergarten with the same potential as their friends.

The Special Education Department will be hosting a Disabilities Summit with Hope Community Resources in May. Students and adults throughout the Southwest Region will have the opportunity to learn about the programs and funding for people with disabilities. It's our hope that more people with special needs will register for these services as this region has been identified as widely underserved.

Our district has some very, very unique circumstances that make providing special education services challenging unlike other districts. This whole month has been focused on how do we get effective services to children across agencies and schools.



Facilities & Maintenance

Rick Dallmann, Maintenance Director

New Stuyahok

Alaska Village Electric Cooperative has received funding to construct their Bulk Fuel Tank Farm. They are purchasing Tanks to be delivered this spring. Part of the project involves moving the Districts two 23,000 Gallon Bulk Tanks into the

Co-located Fenced area. This will get the tanks further away from the school and be secured. AVEC will also be extending the fuel filling lines as needed to accommodate the new Tank placement. Heat Recovery Lines are still planned to run from the future Power Plant to the School Boiler Room.

We continue to work with Coffman Engineering to ensure the Districts needs are met.

Bulk Fuel Upgrades (TWA / K GK / KEK)

Twin Hills Bulk Fuel Upgrades has received funding from the Alaska Energy Authority Through the Denali Commission. The project is slated to start this spring. The District will be getting a new 20,000 Gallon Double Wall Bulk Tank and a new Double Wall

Day Tank. The project will also include the cleaning and Decommissioning of our old Bulk Fuel Tanks. We continue to work with LCMF Engineering to ensure the Districts needs are being met.

Food Service:

Walter went through a USDA Food Distribution Program Review in February We had a few minor storage problems that have been corrected. Overall the Reviewer gave us a very good Review and suggested ways to make improvements to our program. Walter has been making site trips taking Inventory and Distributing over stocked items to the smaller sites and is providing menus to utilize what we have on hand. Budgets are tight and we are trying to make sure each meal prepared is a reimbursable meal to the District. Walter is checking into a few different programs to provide for an afternoon snack for the students something like a fruit or vegetable there are some grant funds out there to fund these programs.

District Wide:

We were able to send personnel to most of the sites over Spring breaks and complete much needed Preventative Maintenance and outstanding work orders. Mid Year Fuel Inventories have been

completed. Through February we were using less fuel than last year, but with the cold March and winds we have been having those savings could be minimal by the end of school.



Aleknagik School

Jeff Ambrosier, Lead Teacher

The past month has been a busy one as well as a productive one here in Aleknagik. The basketball team wrapped up their tournament play by participating in the DLG Supercub tournament. They capped off the season with a fun get-together at the school where they had burgers with all the fixings while playing x-box and just having a great time. Mr. Ambrosier's students, with the help of Randy Tinker, have been building a freight sled out of hickory. The students have learned how to steam and bend the runners. They have also helped out with cutting and sanding the stanchions and cross pieces. The next goal is to cut and bend the bed slats. It's been a lot of fun for everyone involved. The sled will be raffled off with the proceeds going to the student activity account. All the students got to participate in some ice fishing at the point with the help of Cody and Randy. Each group caught some fish and they all had a great time. In Mr. Ambrosier's class, the students have been working with road maps and topomaps. They traveled by snowgo and gps'd everyone's house and marked them on a topo map of the region. While out getting this information, John Tugatuk Sr. showed the kids using Table Mtn as a reference, the difference between grid north and magnetic north. In Mrs. Schiaffo's class, the reading and math classes have also started using the Hot Dots for Hot Students materials granted to their classroom through the Donors Choose organization. These materials focus on basic concepts and skills

using fun Power Pens that talk, make noises, and light up! On March 2, the 3/4 reading class celebrated the annual Read Across America Day by exploring the world of Dr. Seuss. Students learned about the famous author and read his amazing books! In Mrs. Burke's class, students have been using the MCC module for patterns. The kids made paper patterns for head bands used in traditional ceremonies. They then used felt to make ones they could wear. They learned about the shapes of rhombus, triangles and their symmetry. In Mr. Christner's group they are going to be making small pizzas. They will be using measuring cups and tablespoons to measure out the ingredients. (2 MEA-5) Once they have made the pizzas they will then cut each individual pizza into either halves, thirds, or fourths. I'm sure eating the



pizzas will be as much fun as learning about their fractional parts. Practicing for the upcoming statewide test is happening in everyone's classroom. Students are hard at work practicing test taking strategies and reviewing past information as well as continuing to work through the normal curriculum. With the help of some Stimulus money, we have up-

graded our technology and have purchased a subscription to Education city as well as upgraded the Accelerated Reading program. We are asking all the students to complete reading logs each week. By increasing the amount of time students spend

reading we are hoping to increase fluency and comprehension. Lastly, the staff has been cooking breakfast for the kids every other Wednesday. It's been a great time to visit with them as well as work on our culinary skills. .



Clarks Point School

Doug Bushey, Principal

Our students have completed the Math in a Cultural Context "Parkas and Patterns" developed by UAF. Mrs. Bushey continued her professional development in Dillingham with UAF in regards to MCC courses for "Designing Patterns" and "Going to Egg Island." The students have begun both MCC units already. The students enjoyed making "Wind Chimes" (kuluk'uunaq) from the plant known as "Wild Celery" (eekutuk).



Mrs. Bushey attended the Technology conference in Anchorage and brought back to the students several new skills to integrate technology into their core lessons. The students used a green screen to create oral reports from current events. More activities like this to come during the 4th quarter.



The student council hosted a community Valentine's Dinner and Dance with over thirty people attending. Currently the student council is preparing for an Easter Community Breakfast followed by an Easter Egg Hunt and Eskimo Bingo on Saturday, April 3rd.

All the students are receiving daily instruction for the upcoming SBA's and are being introduced to terminology that will be used during the assessments.

Student Activities

Doug Bushey, Activities Coordinator

Chief Ivan Blunka boy's basketball team won the District Playoffs to earn the right to attend the Region 1, 1A Tournament in Sandpoint. CIBS players took 3rd place at the region tournament. Congratulations and next year they will have home court advantage.

The girl's basketball teams of Manokotak, CIBS, and Koliganek all attended the Region 1, 1A Tournament in Newhalen. Koliganek and CIBS played against each other for 3rd and 4th place with Koliganek winning by 1 point at the buzzer. Congratulations to all three teams for attending and participating.

Togiak hosted the Region 1, 2A Boys and Girls Tournament taking 2nd place in both categories against Chevak. Congratulations to the Togiak Husky players. The school personnel and community of Togiak did a great job with hosting 18 visiting teams, and a big thanks to the cooks of the school for providing great meals to the players.



William 'Sonny Nelson' School

Audra Finkenbinder, Lead Teacher

Here we are already in the month of March and the fourth quarter of school. During this time of the school year, there are numerous tests the students take, two of which we have completed - the IPT and Terra Nova. When we return from Spring Break we will have just a little over two weeks before the State Based Assessments (SBA). In addition to holding short, daily reviews we have been incorporating Learning Upgrade as a supplement to help prepare the students for the SBA Tests on April 6th-8th.

The eighth grade students are currently deciding where to attend high school. Some have applied to Mt. Edgecumbe while others have decided to attend high schools within the district. We wish them only the best as they reach this milestone and plan the next step for their future.

William "Sonny" Nelson School celebrated Read Across America Day and Dr. Seuss's birthday on March 2nd by inviting all the children of Ekwok to the school to read books and participate in activities. We also held a third RIF book distribution that day. Everyone who attended had a great time and left with some good books to enjoy at home.

The Third Annual Marlene S. Nelson Memorial Sled Dog Race and Carnival was held March 10th – 14th. There were many events held throughout the village including pie eating contests, turkey

shoots, cribbage tournaments, 3 on 3 basketball, dog races, and dances with the Bethel Band. Lots of visitors came to Ekwok and enjoyed the festivities.





Manokotak 'Nunaniq' School

Herman Gerving, Principal

Our middle and high school basketball seasons came to a close.

Middle and high school students had a visit by BBNA Workforce Development. We have arranged for our juniors and seniors to attend a career fair in Dillingham on March 30.

State testing will take place in several weeks. Our student council will host a pre-testing assembly and potluck dinner and a post-testing mini-carnival.

We're aiming to make AYP the third year in a row and have done immense preparation.

Foods class hosted a Sweetheart Banquet for Valentine's Day. Students hosted a 3-on-3 basketball tournament, and Manuquutaq Trading hosted a large tournament over spring break.

Parent-Teacher conferences were held for 3rd quarter report cards and the turnout was great.

Manokotak Nunaniq student council hosted the first ever SWRS Leadership Conference, with students participating from Koliganek, New Stuyahok, and Togiak. The event was a resounding success, as reported by participants.

Student council members Theron Paul, Tiarna Bartman-Fischler, and Randa Moore have received partial travel scholarships to participate in the AASG Spring Conference at Eielson High School.





Koliganek School

Cody McCanna, Lead Teacher

School Activities

Students have been busy learning and playing this month. Koliganek girls' basketball team placed third at the Regional tournament in Newhalen. Five students from Koliganek traveled to Manokotak for three days to participate in the Leadership Conference. Students came back with a greater sense of purpose and new leadership skills that they will put to work as members of our student council. High school Health students finished making anti-tobacco I-movies that they shared with the elementary students to show the effects of tobacco use.



Professional Learning Community

The Professional Learning Community (PLC) at Koliganek School is starting to have a major impact on student achievement. Student writing samples are posted on the walls and the improvement is very evident. Our PLC consists of all seven professional educators in the building who meet every Friday from 9:00 to 10:30 to discuss student-writing samples and the areas where students need to improve and what the teachers can do to make it happen.

Preparing for Success on the SBA's

Testing anyone? The testing time of year is approaching fast and Koliganek School is continuing to prepare all students for success. Pam Johnson has created "Power Lessons" that she has been using all year to teach specific grade level expectations to groups of students to improve their areas of weakness. All staff members are using Study Island as a tool for students to use to measure their progress on specific grade level expectations that will be on the SBA's next month.

Dr. Seuss's Birthday

February 2 was a fun filled day at Koliganek School. High school students worked with elementary students to make Dr. Seuss hats, Ooblech, green eggs and ham, and just simply enjoy a good Dr. Seuss book. Shannon Clouse read "A Cat in the Hat" over distance delivery dressed as the cat. All students enjoyed the day and got a new appreciation for reading.





‘Chief’ Ivan Blunka School

Bob Thompson, Principal

After three months without snow New Stuyahok is finally able to enjoy winter with fresh snow, snowmachines running about, and dog sleds heading down trails. Students are happy to have the snow where they can play, sled, and ride their snowmachines. It finally feels like an Alaskan winter.

Although there has been no snow, school has now progressed beyond the third quarter of the year. Teachers and students are working hard to prepare students for SBA exams and the HSGQE, but more importantly, students are being prepared with the skills needed to succeed at the next grade level. School is a progression of steps that eventually enables one to be a successful, contributing adult. We are making sure that students can make the next step and continue on towards graduation.

Our seniors are a primary focus this time of year. We will graduate nine students in the spring. These students will be prepared to continue their education beyond high school. All seniors are enrolled, or preparing to enroll, in a post-secondary institution, including Job Corps, the University of Alaska, and UAF Bristol Bay. These students are also preparing by submitting scholarship applications to help with financing their post-secondary work. We are proud of our seniors, not only for graduating from high school, but also for preparing for the future.



Basketball

Our boys' basketball team finished the season as district champions and 3rd place at the regional tournament in Sand Point. The girls' team finished the season in 4th place at the regional tournament in Newhalen, losing a close game to the eventual champion Port Lyons. All together it was a successful season for both teams. Fans could see the improvement as the season wore on, and our players played hard in every game. Thanks needs to go to our coaches, Mickia Walcott and Lisa Andrew, for their many hours and dedication to the teams.

Our middle school teams also had a successful season this year under the leadership of Nick Gust and Heidi Saylor. There were home games as well as away games for boys', girls', and co-ed teams. The experience for these players will undoubtedly lead to great high school teams in the future for Chief Ivan Blunka School.

Dr. Seuss Family Literacy

On March 2nd, Chief Ivan Blunka School celebrated Dr. Seuss's birthday with a Family Literacy Night. We had nearly 100 parents, grandparents, and students here for real green eggs and ham, as well as two large birthday cakes made for us in Dillingham. Students and parents went from room to room where specific Dr. Seuss books were featured. Activities included making clay models of Dr. Seuss characters, a fish pond, and making oobleck. The green eggs were a hit as students were brave enough to try eating the strange looking, but good tasting meal. Our cooks did a great job and Dr. Seuss would be proud.





Togiak School

Dave Morris, Principal

We have had a very busy month in Togiak - working to finish the school year strong and make plans for next year. In addition, we had a couple of really special events this past month. On March 2nd, we co-sponsored a literacy night with the Togiak Public Library. Nearly 40 students and parents gathered for a night of family reading and celebration of Dr. Seuss' Birthday. On March 4, 5, and 6, the Community of Togiak hosted the 2A Region 1 Yukon Kuskokwim Regional Basketball Tournament. There were a total of 20 teams participating in the event and it was a great success. We were very proud of how all the players represented themselves and their communities both on and off the basketball court. A tournament of this size cannot be successfully run without a tremendous community effort. We would like to thank the members of our community who supported the tournament by filling the gym every night. A special thanks to everyone who volunteered their time to help with everything from monitoring hallways to providing food for the hospitality room. We are proud of our Togiak Huskies, who were runner-ups in both the girls and boys divisions. The Chevak Comets were champions in both divisions and we wish them luck as they represent our region at the state tournament.

Volunteers Who Help Make the 2A Region 1 Basketball Tournament Such a Success

Teddy Coopchiak
Esther Thompson
Joe & Susan Alexie
Jeff Goodrich
Andrea Olson
Jimmy Coopchiak
Evelyn Coopchiak
John & Fanny Parker
Moses & Anicia Kritz
Pete Isaacson
Vivian Maud
Andrea Lockuk
Eldon Blue
Rose Wassillie

Roger & Emma Wassillie
Leroy Fox
MaryAnn Isaacson
Lindsey Cassidy
Melissa Smith
Andrew Smith
Sean & Carolyn Carlos
Marie & Herman Paul
Thomas & Frances Dock
Aaron & Margie Frost
Herbert & Bertha Lockuk
Nellie & Nichole Pauk
Dennis Schnieder

Cherie Isaac
Mark Snell
Theo Weber
Ella Kohuk
Alfred Gosuk
Kinka Parker
Jeremy Millard
Michelle Stromer
Mark Breese
Dale Richesin
Sam Bourgeois
Mary Wilcox
Mary Ellen Gosuk





Twin Hills School

Esther Ilutsik, Principal

Kepnerciq/March was a time when our ancestors embraced the hope and expectation of the breaking of winter's hardships. The longer warmer days were welcomed as they were released from the dark cold winter months. The men emerged for longer hunts, children were able to play outdoors and women hunted for small game and went ice fishing. We continue to embrace the month of Kepnerciq/March!

March rolls in with the Twin Hills student councils' first recommendation put into action. The students had a sleep over in the school, Friday, March 5, 2010. The students had to work for this privilege by working hard on all their studies in school. The final approval came from the teachers who watched carefully as students stayed focused with their work and studies.

The sleep over couldn't have happened without two special volunteers – Fran Kuku and Wilbur Sharp respectively.

The students thank them for spending a delightful evening with them. Thank you for sharing yourselves with our students. QUYANA!



The Twin Hills instructional staff had the privilege of attending and participating in two important functions that will help them help their students with reading for comprehension and the basic writing skills. They left on February 15, 2010 after school to catch an early morning flight out of Dillingham on the 16th of February. It took them a whole day to fly to Portland, Oregon with flight delays in Dillingham.

Regardless of the late arrival the staff were up early to participate in “Improving Adolescent Literacy: Effective Vocabulary and Comprehension Practices” sponsored by the Education Northwest: Creating Strong Schools and Communities. Dr. Kamil and Dr. Dole shared research on the importance of reading and how it has an impact on the students’ chance of success. Dr. Kamil showed a chart where those students who were unprepared in reading had a 1% in science and 15 % in math to success

whereas those who were prepared the percentages increased to 32% in science and 67% in math. This followed with both Dr. Kamil and Dr. Dole presenting practical suggestions and activities in how to apply the vocabulary, comprehension, and discussion recommendations. They both emphasized the importance and implementation of efferent discussion. Efferent discussion is literally where the teacher demonstrates the process of unpacking the facts and having a discussion about what the text said. This method also included the question of what the author is trying to say within the reading materials. This session indeed set the foundation down the “20th West International Reading Conference” that we would be participating for the following two full days.



The conference theme “Building Bridges To Literacy” reflected the energy and focus of the reading conference. Over 1,400 educators from mainly the Western States of the US were in attendance. The conference was well organized with a general speaker every morning which followed with concurrent sessions and ending with three featured sessions on a daily basis.

We came away with lots of information that will be implemented into our teaching practices. Leslie Blauman, general speaker for the first morning session (Teacher in Denver, Colorado) put reading into an overall prospective –to ask ourselves as educators these three simple questions – “What does it mean to understand?”, “How do we know kids understand?” , “What does it look like to understand?” and “What does it sound like to understand?”.